REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-25. The Abstract and claims 1, 8, 17 and 20 are amended herein, and new claim 26 is added. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 1-26 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

ABSTRACT:

The Abstract section of the present application is amended herein to correct a typographical error.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to the Abstract.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,269,336 (Ladd) and U.S. Patent No. 6,801,604 (Maes).

In Ladd, grammars (i.e., vocabulary) and personalities (i.e., male or female voices) may be changed by a user or by the electronic network based upon the speech communications detected by the electronic network (see, col. 4, lines 32-35). The electronic network then loads the grammars and personalities for a call based upon the caller line identification (CLI), the network access apparatus, or the identity of the user (see, col. 4, lines 24-32). However, Ladd is limited to modifying the same grammars or personalities stored in the database at the electronic network.

Further, the automatic speech recognition (ASR) unit in Ladd processes all speech inputs from users to determine whether a word or a speech pattern matches grammars or vocabulary stored in the database or downloaded from a voice browser (see, col. 9, lines 26-38). As such, Ladd is limited to speech recognition only via the ASR unit (i.e., requiring added interaction with an application server).

The Examiner acknowledges that Ladd does not explicitly teach the execution of the speech recognition outside of the portal, but relies on Maes as teaching the same. However, in Maes, a voice application on a client is used for some speech processing tasks and the voice application uses remote speech engines when the task is too complex, requires a specialized engine, or when it would not be possible to download grammars, etc. (see, col. 4, lines 42-62).

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That is, Maes is limited to allocating or distributing speech processing tasks to remote speech engines (see also, FIG. 8 and corresponding text).

The remote speech recognition of Maes further requires that the remote speech engines be programmed to handle the next request from the application, for example, the task manager transmits control messages to the speech engines, requests the ASR server to load data files, enables a grammar to recognize digits, listen on a particular port and obtain audio data, etc. (see, col. 16, lines 12-26). That is, any distribution and control of the speech engines in Maes requires the task manager that is independent of the application.

In contrast, the present invention exchanges control between the application sever and the portal without requiring a task manager as in Maes and does not require that each speech recognition be performed at the portal as Ladd.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites, "augmenting the speech recognition system with an augmenting grammar set supplied by a first speech recognizer of a portal" and "notifying the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set responsive to speech recognition executed via a second speech recognizer independent of the portal." Independent claims 8 and 20 also recite similar features.

Independent claim 17 recites, "connecting a call to a portal having a first speech recognizer", "requesting services of a remote application server having a second speech recognizer via the call" and "transmitting an augmenting grammar set of the first speech recognizer from the portal to the remote application server." As further recited in claim 17, the present invention includes, "connecting the call to the remote application server, breaking the connection between the call and the portal" and "notifying the portal when an input during the call corresponds to the augmenting grammar set in accordance with speech recognition executed via the second speech recognizer."

On page 10 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner basis the rejection of claim 25 based on the same rationale used to reject claim and states that Maes teaches the execution of the speech recognition outside of the portal. Applicants respectfully submit that, unlike Maes that requires a voice application on the client to execute some speech processing tasks, claim 25 recites first and second speech recognizers where control of a call is switched based on speech recognition "via the second speech recognizer" without speech recognition by "the first speech recognizer of the portal."

More specifically, the claimed method of claim 25 recites, "augmenting a first speech recognizer of an application server with a grammar set from a portal having a second speech recognizer" and "switching control of a call to the portal in accordance with detection of an input corresponding to the grammar set via the second speech recognizer of the application server."

Ladd and Maes, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, "a first speech recognizer" and "a second speech recognizer" including augmenting a grammar set of one speech recognizer with another and "switching control of a call" based on recognition of an input as corresponding to the grammar set (see each of the independent claims 1, 8, 17, 20 and 25).

It is submitted that independent claims 1, 8, 17, 20 and 25 are patentable over Ladd and Maes.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims are patentably distinguishable over Ladd and Maes. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as claims 5 and 14 recite that the remote application server is directed to perform "one of a fixed set of pre-determined actions on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input." Ladd and Maes do not teach or suggest these features of claims 5 and 14.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 26 has been added to recite, "transferring a grammar set of a portal to an application server and subsequently transferring control of the call to the application server" and "determining whether a call includes an input corresponding to the transferred grammar set based on speech recognition controlled by the application server." The method also includes, "transferring control of the call to the portal subsequent to determining that said input corresponds to the transferred grammar set based on the speech recognition by the application server."

Ladd and Maes, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, "transferring a grammar set of a portal to an application server" and "transferring control of the call to the portal subsequent to speech recognition controlled by the application server based on the speech recognition by the application server", as recited in new claim 26.

Therefore, it is submitted that new claim 26 is patentably distinguishable over Ladd and Maes.

CONCLUSION:

Accordingly, the Abstract and claims 1, 8, 17 and 20 are amended herein. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
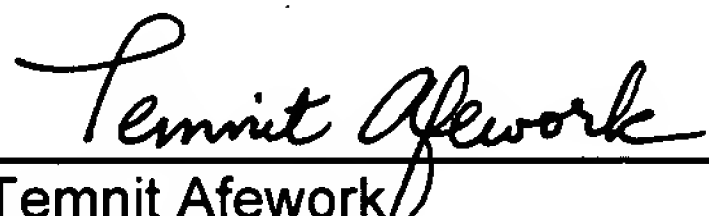
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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